to and vested absolutely in the Central Government free from all encumbrances. The term 'mine' has also been defined in the Act.

CIL Mines in Bihar

1742. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mines, areas of blocks located in the State of Bihar belonging to various subsidiaries of Coal India Limited, details subsidiary and name-wise may be given;

(b) what is the total lease hold area involved in the above stated mines, areas or blocks; details for each subsidiary, name-wise may be given; and

(c) what is the proved/indicated/inferred coal reserve in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) According to Coal India Ltd., the subsidiary-wise details of coal mines being worked by them, located in the State of Bihar, are as under:—

Name of Company	No. of mines in Bihar
1. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. .	93
2. Central Coalfields Ltd. . .	72
3. Estern Coalfields Ltd. . .	20

The names of these mines are being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

Details regarding total leasehold area and proved/indicated/inferred reserves in all these mines would be too voluminous and are not readily available. It is felt that time and effort required in collecting and compiling this information may not be commensurate with the purpose sought to be achieved

Abolition of Coal Board

1743. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what was the logic and justification behind abolition of the then Coal Board constituted under Coal Mines Safety and Conservation Act since 50's;

(b) what was the reason for changing categorization of coal after abolition of Coal Board;

(c) whether it is a fact that Coal Board was an obstacle being an independent statutory body in the way of nationalised coal sector to produce easily inferior variety of coal from the open cast coal mines; and

(d) when the Coal Board was in existence coal containing ash beyond 35% was being treated as non-vendable coal and what is the scientific reason for the change in categorization by treating carbonization material containing 55% as coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The constitution of Coal Board was under the Coal Mines (Conservation, Safety and Development) Act, 1952 which was enacted when the coal industry was almost entirely in the private sector. Since nationalisation of coal mines it was felt that in the changed context the responsibility for effecting conservation of coal resources and other connected functions of Coal Board can be entrusted to the public sector undertakings which have been formed to work the nationalised coal mines.

(b) The conservation of valuable natural energy resources like coal was the main consideration taken into account in the present grading system.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The consumption profile of coal has undergone vast changes over the last two decades. Earlier, the design of combustion equipment was such that only coals with high heat value could be utilised. With the emergence of Pulverised Firing of coal particularly in the thermal power station boilers, it has become possible to utilise coals with high ash content with high thermal efficiency. The modern coal combustion equipment particularly the power station boilers can handle coals with high ash content without any serious problem. The environmental pollution arises mainly from the 'fly ash' produced when the coal is burnt. This problem can be considerably reduced by using beneficiated coal.

Amount Spent on Construction of Koyla Bhavan

1744. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what amount has been spent on the construction of Koyla Bhavan and the Koyla Nagar complex till 31st March, 1994, facts in details;

(b) the amount spent in buying one additional aeroplane by CIL; and

(c) what is the justification for such extravagance when there is paucity of funds for development of mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) According to Coal India Ltd. (CIL) the amount spent on construc-